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(c) & (d) In G.O. No. 276, L. & M., dated the 25th January 1935, the procedure in regard to making appointments to these posts by presidents of district boards, has been laid down. This Government Order was already placed on the table of the House in reply to clause (a) of question No. 802 answered on the 11th March 1935.

Elections to the Provincial Legislatures

Programme of elections to the local legislature under the Reforms.

* 678 *Q*.—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the preparations for elections to the local legislatures under the new reforms are; and

(b) when the new elections are likely to take place?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 346, at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 31st October 1935.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" May I know if the Hon. Member is not able to tell definitely at least now when the elections are likely to come up?"

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken:—" No, Sir, I have no definite information."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" Did not the Conference which was held at Delhi throw more light on this matter?"

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken:—" The matter was discussed at Delhi; but a good deal depends on the publication of the Hammond Committee's Report."

S. M. K. Beyabani Sahib Bahadur:—" Is the Hon. Member aware that the papers have forcasted to the effect that the elections will be held in January?"

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken:—" I am not aware of that."

Provincial Finance

Rate of interest charged by the Government of India for the current year.

* 679 *Q*.—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the interest rate of the Government of India for the current year has been announced and, if so, what it is and when it was received?

A.—Yes. The standard rate of interest to be charged by the Provincial Loans Fund in respect of advances made to Provincial Governments in 1935–36 is $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent per annum. The information was received by this Government on 1st September 1935.